

STEVEN VAN ZANDT IS MARRIED TO THE MOB

BUT THE ACTOR DOESN'T MIND BEING TYPECAST. PAGE 22



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Thursday, December 12, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroNew York | f: MetroNewYork

MTA's 2013 highs, lows

Hop on board. The Straphangers Campaign released its annual list of the best and worst of the MTA over the past year. **Still recovering.** Superstorm Sandy casts a long shadow over the subway system with ongoing repairs to tracks due to the storm, as well as other flooding-related issues. PAGE 02

Meet the neighbors

PAGE 02



Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio and his family will soon leave their Park Slope home and move to Gracie Mansion. / MANSION: BESS ADLER, METRO; DE BLASIO: GETTY IMAGES

Don't hate on Peter Jackson

PAGE 23

Patti Stanger's love lessons

PAGE 33

We'll drink to you, hot stuff

PAGE 34



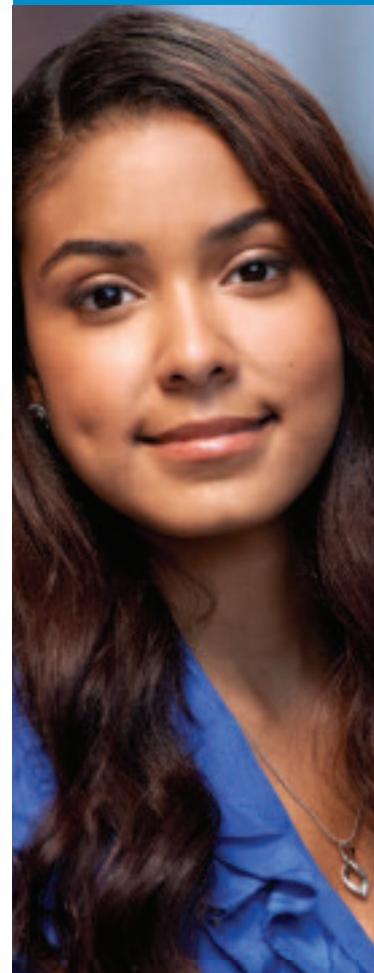
Gifts for that special someone

PAGES 25-32



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NEWS

Quoted

"We're going to be coming back a lot. We're going to make it a very important part of our life to come back and stay connected to our neighborhood and to our many friends and neighbors."

Bill de Blasio on returning to Park Slope



Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 Rush Limbaugh on women's breasts: 'Stop staring at my eyes'

2 'Who is the 'fake' sign language interpreter at Mandela's memorial?'

3 'VIDEO: Sad dog is left out at birthday party'

Newest mayoral family to grace Gracie Mansion

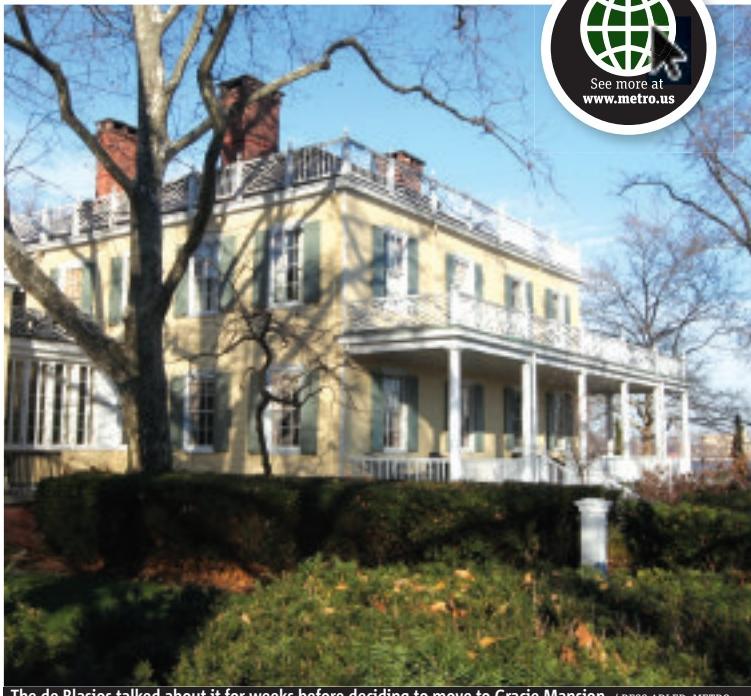
Change. Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio will move from his Park Slope home to Gracie Mansion.

Leaving their Brooklyn home behind, Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio and his family will move to Gracie Mansion, which he dubbed "the people's house."

"We will always be Brooklynites," de Blasio said in Park Slope Wednesday, adding his family will move into the official mayoral residence over the next few months.

The family said in a statement they were moving partially out of "respect and gratitude for the people."

But the choice wasn't an easy one for de Blasio, his wife Chirlane McCray,



The de Blasios talked about it for weeks before deciding to move to Gracie Mansion. / BESS ADLER, METRO



and their two children, Ciara and Dante.

The family has lived in the same Park Slope home for 13 years.

"There's so many routines that I have that I will miss," McCray said.

After living in the 214-year-old Manhattan mansion, the family will return to their comparably modest Brooklyn home.

Standing near the same spot where he launched his campaign nearly 11 months ago, de Blasio said it was important for his family to leave the borough where they've lived for over two decades.

"We see Gracie Mansion as the people's house," the mayor-elect said, adding, "Here, in front of this house, I said all boroughs are created equal and I mean that."

ANNA SANDERS

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MTA's 'best and worst' list of 2013



The Straphangers Campaign releases the list every year. / GETTY IMAGES

Among many good and bad events to happen to the city's bus and subway system this year, according to the Straphangers Campaign annual "MTA best and worst" list released on Wednesday, were a new MTA chief, a record number of deaths on the rails and a decrease in a federal tax break for commuters. The bus system saw

the greatest number of good items, with the expansion of Bus Time throughout Manhattan and Select Bus Service on various lines.

And, of course, the lasting effects of the destruction wreaked by Superstorm Sandy is still having an impact on the city's subway system.

Delays increased by 29 percent during the first

quarter of the year, due to track related issues. The R tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan will be closed for repairs through 2014, and the G tunnel is closed on many weekends. The South Ferry station sustained massive damages, and seven downtown Manhattan subway stations require flood "mitigation" measures.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

In the Bronx

Baby's earrings stolen during day care: NYPD

Police said a day care worker stole a baby's hoop earrings last week.

Desire Santiago, 21, was arrested after police said an 18-month-old's mother noticed her child's earrings were missing

when she came home from day care on Friday.

Police said surveillance footage showed Santiago, a worker at the day care center, taking the earrings off the baby.

Santiago was arrested Wednesday and charged with grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property. ANNA SANDERS

Expensive tastes

Robbers steal pricey jacket

Two suspects are wanted for stealing a brown crocodile skin jacket worth \$40,000 from a high-end clothing store in Manhattan last week.

Police said the two suspects, a man and a woman, entered the men's clothing store Zilli on 57th Street, next to the Four Seasons Hotel,

about 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 3.

The woman removed the jacket from a rack and passed it to the man, who took it into a fitting room where he stuffed the coat in a duffel bag. The pair then fled the store without paying, police said.

The man and the woman are described as white, in their mid-20s with thin builds.

Police describe the

By the numbers

\$40K

The jacket was worth \$40,000.

woman as 5 feet, 3 inches tall. She was wearing a black jacket, jeans and black boots at the time of the theft. The man is 5 feet, 10 inches tall and wore navy pants and a tan jacket. ANNA SANDERS

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Flu shots to be required for some kids



Kids in day care and preschool will have to get the flu shot. / GETTY IMAGES

Vaccine. The city's Board of Health voted to take a bold stance toward promoting youth wellness.

In a unanimous decision, the city's Board of Health voted Wednesday to mandate flu shots for young children in day care and preschool.

Taking effect in 30 days, the measure will require kids between 6 months and 5 years old in those childcare programs to receive influenza vaccinations before Dec. 31 each year.

"Young children often pass influenza to other children and family members, who then spread the infection to others in the community," the Health Department said.

Children in day care are already required to be immunized against other diseases, including measles and chicken pox.

Some strongly oppose the mandate.

John Gilmore, executive director of the Autism Action Network, said the

The rule

About 150,000 children between 6 months and 5 years old in day care and preschool will be required to have annual flu shots, though parents may opt out for religious and medical reasons.

Influenza

I don't want any parent to be in the position I'm in, asking, 'What could I have done to save my child?'

Richard Kanowitz,
President of Families Fighting Flu

group plans to file a lawsuit opposing the ruling in the next few weeks.

"We don't think the City of New York has the authority to create its own vaccine schedule," Gilmore said.

He said Mayor Michael Bloomberg "dumped" the rule on Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio.

Lis Smith, a spokeswoman for the mayor-elect said de Blasio and his team

were reviewing the measure, "but are supportive of proactive policies that promote public health."

Though Gilmore insists flu shots are "ineffective" for children under 5, the Centers for Disease Control said the vaccine's effectiveness is only reduced for those under 2 years old. The institute recommends everyone have an annual shot.

Richard Kanowitz, president of Families Fighting Flu, said his 4-year-old daughter died of the flu before that recommendation was made.

"Had my daughter been vaccinated, her body's response to the flu virus would have been different," Kanowitz said.

ANNA
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The bill would allow New Yorkers to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana. / GETTY IMAGES

New bill would legalize pot in New York State

Going legit. State Sen. Liz Krueger is introducing legislation to regulate and tax marijuana.

A newly introduced bill in the state Senate seeks to legalize and tax marijuana, turning an illicit industry into a potentially profitable one for the government.

State Sen. Liz Krueger, who introduced the bill on Wednesday, said the legislation is modeled after the laws that govern alcohol sales and consumption.

She hopes moving from prohibition to regulation will end what reformers criticize as costly, ineffective policies that harm

New Yorkers of color.

Black New Yorkers are arrested for marijuana possession seven times as often as white New Yorkers, and Latinos are arrested at almost four times the rate of white New Yorkers.

"On their face, the racial disparities in these statistics represent a grave injustice, while the sheer volume of arrests shows just how gross a waste of city and state resources our current policy has become," Krueger said.

Under Krueger's bill, New Yorkers over the age of 18 would be able to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana, and grow up to six marijuana plants in their home. The minimum age to buy pot would be 21. The bill establishes an excise tax of \$50 per ounce of marijuana, and authorizes local governments to charge ad-

Failed policy

"Prohibition of marijuana is a policy that just hasn't worked, no matter how you look at it, and it's time to have an honest conversation about what we should do next."

State Sen. Liz Krueger

ditional tax on retail sales.

A portion of the tax revenue would go to re-entry, substance abuse and job training programs in low-income, high unemployment areas.



DANIELLE
TCHOLAKIAN

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Ray Kelly

NYPD top cop honored by Muslim council

The Muslim Advisory Council to the NYPD honored Police Commissioner Ray Kelly on Tuesday night for his work with the city's Muslim community.

The group provides Muslim leaders access to the NYPD.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Toy drive

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New York City sees record tourist numbers

Economic boom. The city's tourism industry continues to be a powerhouse.

Visitors continue to flock to New York City, helping to set yet another record for the city's tourism industry.

An estimated 54.3 million visitors will have visited the Big Apple by the end of this year, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced on Tuesday.

In 2012, the city welcomed 52.7 million visitors — a record number at that time. Tourism has grown by about 54 percent since 2002, when 35 million visitors came to the city, according to NYC & Company, the city's marketing and tourism organization.



Tourists spent billions of dollars in the city this year. / GETTY IMAGES

Economic health

"Tourism plays a vital role in our city's economy, and the work that we've done to strengthen tourism over the past 12 years has helped our city weather the national economic downturn and come out in far better shape than most other cities."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

By the numbers

55M

The mayor had set a goal of 55 million visitors by 2015, but he announced that the city is on track to achieve that milestone one year early.

\$58B

Visitors to the city will have generated \$58.7 billion in overall economic impact and \$39.4 billion in direct spending this year, officials estimated.

370K

In addition, jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector are anticipated to reach a monthly average of more than 370,000 by the end of this year, officials said.

Laura Shin
letters@metro.us

Open case. Police investigate the death of diplomat's son

History of calls

Police from the 14th precinct have been called to the home twice in the last few months for verbal disputes that did not result in any arrests, the official said.

The Murray Hill apartment of a Mexican diplomat is being treated as a crime scene as part of an NYPD investigation into the death of the diplomat's 4-month-old son, a law enforcement official said.

The diplomat, Eduardo Rocha Bracamontes, 36, and his wife, Gina Ximena, 26, brought the infant to NYU Langone Medical Center around 9 p.m. Tuesday, police said. The boy was not breathing and was pronounced dead a half-hour later.

The official said NYU Langone notified the Administration for Children's Services but did not notify the NYPD.

Police were finally called after an investigator with the Medical Examiner's office viewed the infant's body.

The investigator had discovered abrasions and redness on the infant's

scalp, cuts on his left thumb and right toe, and bruises on his back and genitals.

The official said Bracamontes told police he works for the Mexican Consulate and has diplomatic immunity.

The NYPD confirmed that he does work for the consulate, but said he is only considered a diplomat while performing his professional duties, which means he can be questioned and arrested if a felony warrant is issued. DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

THE MILLIONAIRE

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THIRTEEN



Health secretary calls for probe of Obamacare website launch debacle

Rough start. The site's disastrous debut created a political crisis for Obama and fellow Democrats.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Wednesday asked the department's inspector general to investigate the performance of private contractors in the flawed launch of the Obamacare website.

The health care enrollment website, a key part of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care law, crashed on its Oct. 1 launch and was subjected to weeks of emergency

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- Check your connection
- If you still can't connect, contact customer service

Try Again

The White House has admitted previously that the launch of HealthCare.gov was a debacle and the Obama administration pledged that the vast majority of potential customers would be able to enroll online by the end of November. (CNET IMAGES)

gency fixes.

“I am asking the Inspector General to review the acquisition process, overall program management and contractor performance and payment issues related to the development and management of the HealthCare.gov website,” Sebelius said in a blog post. **REUTERS**

Report

Enrollment doubled in Nov.

The number of people seeking health insurance under Obamacare more than doubled in November to around 250,000, according to a government report on Wednesday, showing the landmark health care law is still far from its goal of extending coverage to millions of uninsured Americans.

The new tally brought the cumulative total for October and November to 365,000 people who have selected health plans in new online marketplaces.

Stubborn. US gender pay gap narrows, but worries remain

Dollars and cents

.93

Their analysis found women aged 25 to 34 made about 93 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2012, the report said. That is better than the rate for women of all ages, who overall made 84 cents in the dollar compared to male workers.



Though the gap has narrowed, there's still a long way to go for gender pay equality.

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Washington

Home of senator's aide searched in porn investigation

Law enforcement agents are searching the home of a top aide to Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander in connection with child pornography

allegations, the lawmaker said in a statement on Wednesday.

Alexander, citing the Senate's legal office, said investigators were searching the Washington home of Ryan Loskarn, his chief of staff.

"I am stunned, surprised and disappointed by what I have learned," Alexander said. **REUTERS**

Not happy

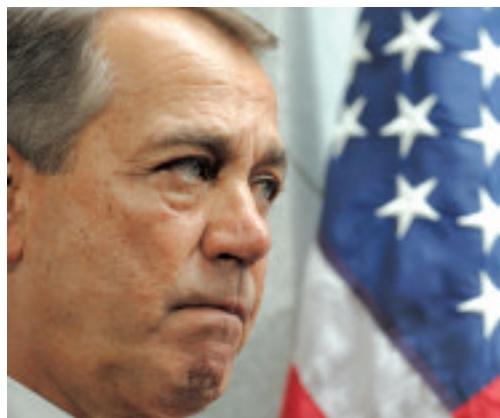
Boehner: No acceptable plan to extend unemployment

John Boehner said he has not seen an acceptable plan from the White House to extend long-term unemployment benefits that are due to expire on Dec. 31.

Boehner said he told

President Barack Obama last week that he would consider such a plan from the White House.

"I said we would clearly consider it, as long as it was paid for and as long as there are efforts that will help get our economy going again. I have not seen a plan from the White House that meets those standards," he said. **REUTERS**

US House Republicans voice budget deal support

House Speaker John Boehner listens to others from the GOP leadership during a media availability following a Republican Conference meeting at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday. / GETTY IMAGES

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House Speaker.

John Boehner blamed the White House for the lack of action on jobless benefits.

ber 2015.

Passage in the House, just before the chamber recesses on Friday for the year, would all but guarantee the same in the Senate, probably next week. Rep. Tom Cole told reporters that a majority of his fellow House Republicans would vote for the budget deal, which would replace some of the indiscriminate, across-the-board agency spending cuts scheduled for the next two years.

"A lot of support was expressed for it" during a closed meeting of House Republicans, Cole told reporters.

Despite conservative groups denouncing the \$85 billion plan, the Republican-controlled House could vote as early as today to lock into place a measure that would minimize chances of any further government shutdowns at least until Octo-

The plan

- The deal announced late on Tuesday by Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, a Democrat, and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, a Republican, marked a shift away from three years of standoffs.

Quoted

"They're using our members, and they're using the American people, for their own goals. This is ridiculous. Listen, if you're for more deficit reduction, you're for this agreement."

House Speaker John Boehner

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On the go. Spotify rolls out free music service to mobile devices

Online music-streaming service Spotify on Wednesday launched a free music service for smartphones and tablets as it tries to hook a fast-growing group of users eager to stream tunes on their mobile devices. Spotify offers free music on desktop computers with advertising, but customers previously had to pay for on-demand connection on their mobile devices.

Its new service will allow listeners to choose the tracks they want to hear for free — with commercial interruptions — in the hope that people will upgrade to subscriptions.

"The more music you play, the more likely you will pay," said Spotify founder and CEO Daniel Ek during a press conference at Spotify's offices in New York.

Spotify has about 24 million active users around the world of which

Popularity contest

As smartphones and tablets mushroom, they have become choice devices to listen to music, even in the home, Ek said.

- Streaming music has soared in popularity but competition is fierce with U.S. rival Pandora, iTunes Radio, Sirius XM and Rdio all battling it out for listeners.
- Revenues from mobile advertising at Pandora, which dominates the U.S. music-streaming space, have been rising as more people tune in on their smartphones.

6 million pay to listen to music without advertising. Ek also announced Spotify launched in 20 new markets for 55 markets worldwide. **REUTERS**



Pope Francis named Person of the Year

Time magazine named Pope Francis its Person of the Year on Wednesday, crediting him with shifting the message of the Catholic Church while capturing the imagination of millions of people who had become disillusioned with the Vatican. This is the third time the magazine has chosen a pope as its Person of the Year. Time gave that honor to Pope John Paul II in 1994 and to Pope John XXIII in 1963. **REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES**

Video site

Dailymotion working on partnerships in US and Asia

Video-sharing website Dailymotion, owned by French telecoms operator Orange, is close to signing a partnership in the United States and is working on another in Asia to help it to take on market leader YouTube.

"There is a nice probability for us to come to an agreement in the coming weeks for the U.S. market," said Orange Chief Executive Stephane Richard.

Though he did not name the companies, Richard said the potential U.S. partner is "a major player" in the digital economy and described the Asian company as "a significant regional operator."

Orange had been in talks with United States-based Web portal Yahoo this year to sell a 75 percent stake in Dailymotion, but the

By the numbers

28.4%

The French state owns 28.4 percent of Orange, so it has some sway over the group's actions and management.

120M

Dailymotion has about 120 million unique monthly visitors.

2.5B

And it has 2.5 billion video views each month.

97

Web analytics firm Alexa places it as the 97th most visited website in the world, while YouTube is in third place.

deal foundered in May after France's industry minister slammed the idea of one of the country's most visible startups being "devoured" by Americans. **REUTERS**

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GETTY IMAGES

The Presidential selfie heard 'round the world

It seemed so innocent: President Barack Obama posing for a cell phone photo with Britain's David Cameron snapped by Denmark's Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt at Nelson Mandela's memorial service on Tuesday, as first lady Michelle Obama stared icily forward. But the international uproar afterward was far from light-hearted, with many calling it a "funeral faux pas." British media took Cameron to task, while the Danish media took a more laid-back approach. METRO

Quoted

"Can you believe it, Obama taking selfies at the Nelson Mandela memorial?"

Rush Limbaugh

Documents. Pilots of Asiana crash knew speed was too low

Pilots of an Asiana Airlines Inc. plane that crash-landed in San Francisco last summer were aware the plane was traveling too slowly and tried to correct it in the final seconds before impact, according to documents released on Wednesday by U.S. aviation safety investigators.

The co-pilot, who was training the pilot flying the plane, thought the autothrottle on the Boeing 777 jet might not have been operating, the documents showed.

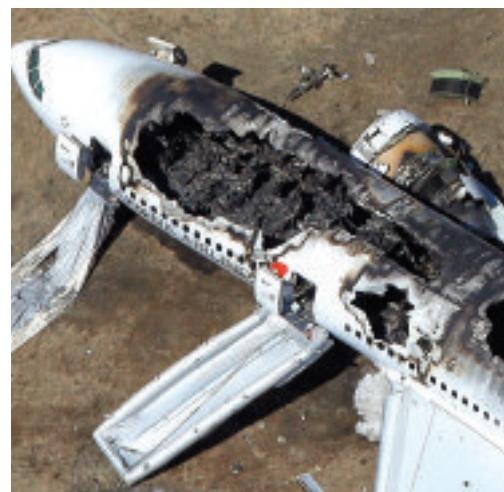
The pilot flying the plane said he wasn't sure whether autothrottle, used to set engine thrust power, was maintaining speed, according to the documents.

The National Transportation Safety Board released dozens of detailed

documents as it opened an investigative hearing into its causes.

The hearing focused on whether an over-reliance on autopilot systems in modern aircraft has led to degraded human flying skills and increased the risk of accidents.

The Asiana pilots said in interviews with the NTSB that they left their "flight director" system, which includes the autopilot, partially on. In that mode, the system prevented a "wake-up" from hold mode from taking place, Capt. John Cashman, a retired Boeing 777 test pilot, testified at the hearing on Wednesday. The lack of wake-up meant the autothrottle was not going to prevent the plane's speed from slowing, he said. REUTERS



The Boeing 777 airplane lies burned near the runway after it crash-landed at San Francisco International Airport July 6, 2013, in San Francisco, Calif. / GETTY IMAGES

Degrees

330

The low, slow landing caused the plane's tail to hit a seawall short of the runway. The plane spun 330 degrees as it broke apart and caught fire, strewn wreckage along the runway.

Fatalities

3

The crash on July 6 killed three people and injured more than 180, and was the first fatal commercial airplane crash in the United States since February 2009.



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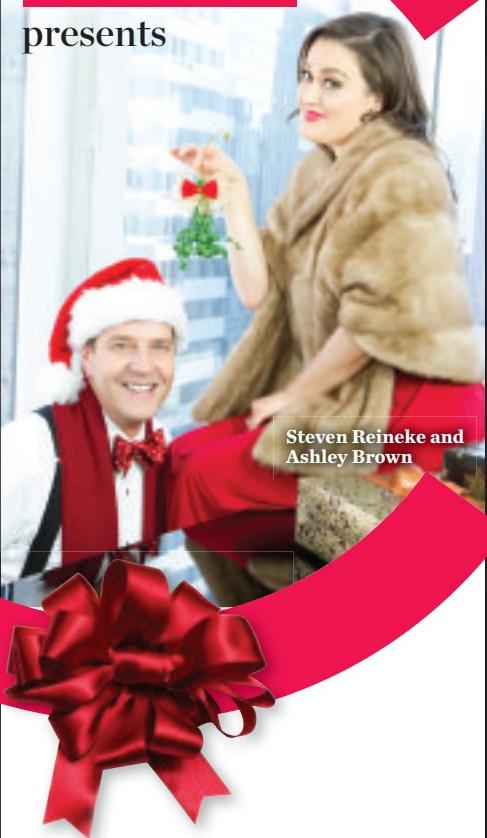


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NEWS 14

US, Britain stop aid to north Syria after rebels raid supplies

Seizure and suspension.

Islamists take over weapons stores.

The United States and Britain suspended non-lethal aid to northern Syria after Islamist fighters seized Western-backed rebel weapons warehouses, highlighting fears that supplies could end up in the wrong hands.

The rebel Free Syrian Army fighting President

Bashar al-Assad said the U.S. and British moves were rushed and mistaken.

In Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the United States was concerned about reports that Islamic Front forces had seized the buildings belonging to the Syrian Military Council, which is nominally in charge of the FSA.

"As a result of the situation ... the United States has suspended all further deliveries of non-lethal assistance into northern

Quoted

"We hope our friends will rethink and wait for a few days when things will be clearer."

Louay Meqdad
FSA spokesman

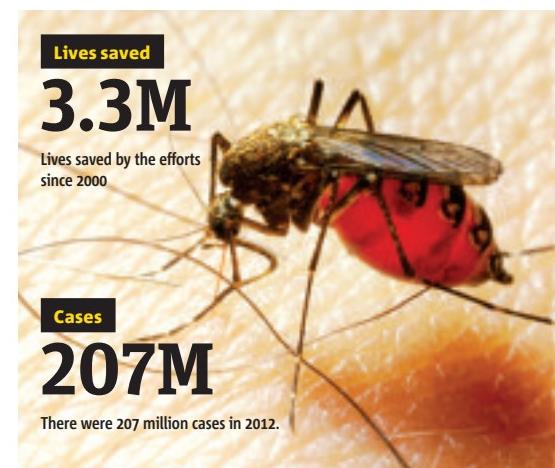
Syria," Earnest said, adding that humanitarian aid was not affected by the move.

The suspension underlines a crisis for the FSA leadership, which needs

international backing to reinforce its credibility and to stop its fighters joining al Qaeda-backed Islamist militants who now dominate the war with Assad.

Fighters from the Islamic Front, which groups six major rebel brigades and which said last week it had quit the FSA, seized the headquarters of the Syrian Military Council and weapons warehouses at the Bab al-Hawa crossing on Syria's northwestern border with Turkey.

REUTERS



Malaria control efforts save millions

Global efforts to curb malaria have saved the lives of 3.3 million people since 2000, cutting global death rates from the mosquito-borne disease by 45 percent and by half in children under 5, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday. WHO said in its World Malaria Report 2013 that expanded prevention and control measures helped produce declines in malaria deaths and illness. Of the 3.3 million lives saved, most were in the 10 countries with the highest malaria burden and among children under age 5, the group most afflicted by the disease. "Investments in malaria control, mostly since 2007, have paid off tremendously," said Ray Chambers, the United Nations secretary-general's special envoy for malaria. According to the WHO report, child deaths fell to fewer than 500,000 in 2012. Overall, there were about 207 million cases of malaria in 2012, which caused some 627,000 deaths. REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES

Battle for the mind

G8 summit calls for AIDS-style fight against dementia

The world needs to fight the spread of dementia in the same way it mobilized against AIDS, a British government minister told a special summit on the disease on Wednesday, saying failure to tackle it would wreck state health budgets.

Global cases of dementia are expected to treble by 2050, yet scientists are still struggling

to understand the basic biology of the memory-robbing brain condition, and the medicine cupboard is bare.

"In terms of a cure, or even a treatment that

Far-reaching effects

Dementia — of which Alzheimer's disease is the most common form — already affects 44 million people worldwide and this is set to reach 135 million by 2050, according to new estimates this month from Alzheimer's

can modify the disease, we are empty-handed," World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan told ministers, campaigners, scientists and drug

Disease International, a non-profit campaign group.

• More than 70 percent of them will be living in poorer countries with scant access to health care.

industry executives from the Group of Eight leading economies at the summit in London.

British Health Minister Jeremy Hunt said there were lessons to be learnt from the fight against AIDS, where a 2005 G8 summit played a key role in pushing for better and more widely available drugs.

"We have turned the global tide in the battle against AIDS. Now we need to do it again. We will bankrupt our health care systems if we don't," he said. REUTERS

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This watch doesn't do dainty. And neither do I. Call me old-fashioned, but I want my boots to be leather, my tires to be deep-tread monsters, and my steak thick and rare. Inspiration for a man's watch should come from things like fast cars, firefighters and power tools. And if you want to talk beauty, then let's discuss a 428 cubic inch V8.

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CULTURE



Twitter feed

Today, Elizabeth Hurley can't see through the fog and Joss Whedon is worried about the message movies are sending.

@ElizabethHurley: Pea souper in London today.

@josswhedon: Movies teach us that a man with daddy issues is a HERO and a man with mommy issues is a sexually dysfunctional serial killer.

1

Demi Lovato: Drug mule?

Lying to family, smuggling drugs onto planes, hiding booze in soda bottles: At just 19 years old, Demi Lovato's drug abuse was way out of control.

The pop star, who's now 21 and sober, opened up about her wild days before getting help. "I couldn't go 30 minutes to an hour without cocaine, and I would bring it on airplanes,"



See more at
www.metro.us

she told Access Hollywood. "I would smuggle it, basically, and just wait until everyone in first class would go to sleep and I would do it right there. I'd sneak to the bathroom and I'd do it."

It wasn't just her fellow passengers — Lovato says she was able to hide her drug use from her mom, and even from her sober companion. "I'm very, very good at manipulating people and that was something that I did in my disease, I would manipulate everyone around me," she admitted.

It was that soda bottle though that was her wake-up call. Lovato says that she was swigging from a Sprite bottle full of vodka at 9 in the morning — on the way to the sober living house where she was staying — when she started throwing up. "I had a moment where I was like, 'Oh my God ... that is alcoholic behavior.'"

Lovato's not the only member of young Hollywood reflecting on a wilder time in their lives: Joe Jonas recently revealed that he smoked marijuana for the first time with Miley Cyrus and Lovato.



It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Jason Momoa! / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Momoa heeds the Bat-Signal

Will Jason Momoa get the same harsh treatment from fans as Ben Affleck did?

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the "Game of Thrones" star, who played Khal Drogo on the first season of the hit HBO fantasy, is in talks to join the cast of "Batman vs. Superman," which is fast shaping up to be a sort of "Love Actually" of superheroines, at least in terms of cast size.

In case you just joined the Internet today, I must inform you that "Batman vs. Superman" stars Ben Affleck as Batman. Henry Cavill will reprise his role as Superman and Israeli newcomer Gal Gadot will play Wonder Woman. The production hasn't announced what role Momoa

would play in the film, though fans speculate he may be coming onboard to play a villain, possibly Doomsday, who killed Superman (for a while) in the comics in 1992, or the Martian Manhunter.

Hopefully Momoa will get a kinder reception from fans than Affleck. After the "Argo" star won the role off the bat, the nerdosphere's collective head blew off.

"Oh man, I hope the next movie's gonna be 'Batman vs. Daredevil'! All Affleck all the time!!!" tweeted Weird Al.

"Really looking forward to seeing Affleck bring the depth and gravitas to Batman that he brought to 'Daredevil' and 'Gigli,'" said actor and professional geek Wil Wheaton.

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Talking point

Demi loses her ring

Now that her divorce from Ashton Kutcher is finalized, Demi Moore is reportedly rushing to erase anything that reminds her of him from her life — including the engagement ring he got her, which she quietly sold recently, according to Star magazine. Moore sold the five-carat, emerald-cut anonymously on consignment for \$250,000, the source claims.

Spears dreams of pregnancy

Despite having two sons at home, Britney Spears is hoping to bring a daughter into the world, she tells InStyle. "I would like to be busy for the first couple of years, but then I would really like to have another baby, a girl. I think she would be like a mini-me," Spears says. "I think it's going to be crazy. I'm not going to feel as alone in the world anymore. I'm going to



That's a Rocknroll baby!

feel like I have a second person, like, that's me."

Winslet a new mom again

Kate Winslet gave birth

to a son, her first child with new husband Ned Rocknroll, on Saturday. "Baby and mother are doing great," her rep says, though more info about the boy, including his name, wasn't disclosed.

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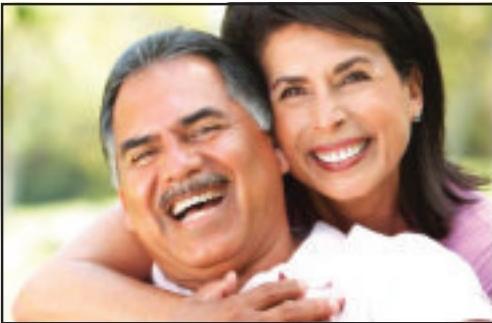
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ENTERTAINMENT 18

Interview. Amy Adams wanted to express the sexuality of her "American Hustle" character.

In "American Hustle," all of the characters — grifters, FBI agents, shady politicians, all involved in the notorious Abscam operation of the 1970s — are trying to be something they're not. It's like acting. But for Amy Adams, who plays Sydney, a con artist pretending to be English, it's more than that.

"She wants to be anyone (other) than who she is. And that's where you meet her. She's already at a point of reinvention," Adams explains. Sydney falls instantly in love with Christian Bale's duplicitous Irving Rosenfeld. "She meets Irving and he presents to her who she wants to be. He sees her as smart, he sees her as intelligent, he sees her as a lady. She feels found. And then he betrays her. That's not cool."

Sydney winds up in cahoots with Bradley Cooper's overzealous FBI agent, which is about more than just revenge. "I think there are moments in going back and forth [between them] in which she's not sure how she feels," she says. "She's not torn between two men so much as she's torn between truth and lying. Is she going to believe a lie she herself helped create, or is she going to believe the truth? The truth hurts; the truth is a lot harder."

Piling into those '70s dresses helped get her into character, but it's more



Amy Adams plays a con artist in "American Hustle." / GETTY IMAGES

On the lips

Kissing Katniss

Inevitably, much ink has been spilled over a brief, lipstick-smearing kiss that Jennifer Lawrence, as Bale's jilted wife, plants on Adams. "I feel like Jennifer made that contribution," she says. "I came up with the idea, but she executed it in a brilliant way that sells it comedically and dramatically. It doesn't feel like it shouldn't be in there. It feels organic."

character. It didn't feel like a moment where two girls are going to kiss on-screen. It was from somewhere emotional. She killed it. And the laugh she gave after? Come on. Jennifer executed it in a brilliant way that sells it comedically and dramatically. It doesn't feel like it shouldn't be in there. It feels organic."

TV Watch list

MOVIE

'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation'

We'd love to recommend something cultured: say, the Fred Astaire classic "You Were Never Lovelier" on TCM at 9:45 p.m. But there's a good chance you'll wind up once more snuggling with this Yuletide entry in the withering Griswold trilogy. Try not to be too sad that Randy Quaid and his wife are in

real life now totally insane.
9 P.M. ABC FAMILY

COMPETITION

'The Sing-Off'

Wait, there's a singing competition reality show about a cappella? Hosted by Nick Lachey? And with Ben Folds and Jewel as judges? On one hand, we thought this was a sign of the apocalypse. On the other, we're perversely amused something his nakedly dorky has been on the air for four years. 8 P.M. NBC
MATT PRIGGE



Chevy Chase puts up with Randy Quaid in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

than that. "I was trained as a dancer. It's always been how I tell stories, through my body. I always find movement in a character," she says. "I knew she was going to be a sexual being. I thought about people who have an elegance with their sexuality, a power through their sexuality. Dancing was how I started to feel her. I thought about Ann-Margaret and Cyd Charisse, these dancers who were in control because of the way they moved their bodies."

Her director, David O. Russell, has a checkered history with actors. He was scandalized after his yelling at Lily Tomlin on "I Heart Huckabees" first hit newspapers, then became a viral video hit. And yet actors flock to him, no less because he's since directed three of them (Bale, Melissa Leo and Jennifer Lawrence) to Oscars, and others (Adams included) to nominations. He also has a reputation for pushing actors to extremes.

But Adams sees it differently. "I feel [David] exemplifies reality. He doesn't push it. He shows reality," she claims. "Not everything in reality is subtle and slow. When I lose my cool it is over the top. In life, Amy is over the top at times. That's how we are as humans. He finds the moments when this extreme is the truth for these characters." And he does something else, perhaps even more important. "David always makes sure his characters are multidimensional, and his women — thank you, David — are multidimensional."

 MATT PRIGGE

matt.prigge@metro.us

Tales from the Golden Age

George Cukor.

The prolific director of classic Hollywood fare gets a complete retrospective.

Golden Age Hollywood director George Cukor is primarily known as a king of "women's pictures," among them 1939's "The Women," which had not a Y chromosome onscreen. But some 50 films in about as many years make him hard to pigeonhole. Besides, not even Cukor liked that description.

As you can see for yourself during the Lincoln Center's herculean, complete Cukor retrospective, his CV runs the gamut. There's literary adaptations (his 1930s takes on "Little Women" and "Romeo and Juliet"), comedies ("The Philadelphia Story"), one of the best Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn pictures ("Adam's Rib") and one of the worst ("Keeper of the Flame"). There's even the occasional musical ("Les Gals," "My Fair Lady").

What unites them is a certain sophistication. His comedies never let loose, like the screwballs of the '30s, but keep their appearances even when, as in



Judy Garland is at her career best in George Cukor's "A Star Is Born." / LINCOLN CENTER

"Pat and Mike," Tracy and Hepburn run afoul of a hood played by a young Charles Bronson. The cliche is that Cukor's not-so-secret homosexuality explains his peerless work with actresses. But he was as sharp with the men: James Mason is arguably even better than a career-best Judy Garland in "A Star Is Born," Cukor's gutting musical remake of a story he had already filmed in 1932 as "What Price Hollywood?"

Possibly his most famous film was one that only features some of his work: After a few weeks of shooting, he was famously fired from "Gone with the Wind" (not included here),

a project he had worked on for over a year prior. The rumor was that Gable was a homophobe, or was at least skeeved that Cukor had (allegedly) been one of his johns during his pre-fame gigolo days. Of course, that hadn't stopped the two from working together on 1934's crime pic "Manhattan Melodrama," the movie John Dillinger saw right before his death.

Cukor slowed in his later years. After winning his only director Oscar for "My Fair Lady" in 1964, his films became strange and unmoored. "Rich and Famous," his 1981 swan song with Jacqueline Bisset and Candice Bergen, is notable for seeming unstuck in time. But there are more pockets of his career that deserve exploration than his final stretch. With this and the epic Barbara Stanwyck retro unwinding at Film Forum, local film fans should have their fill.

If you go

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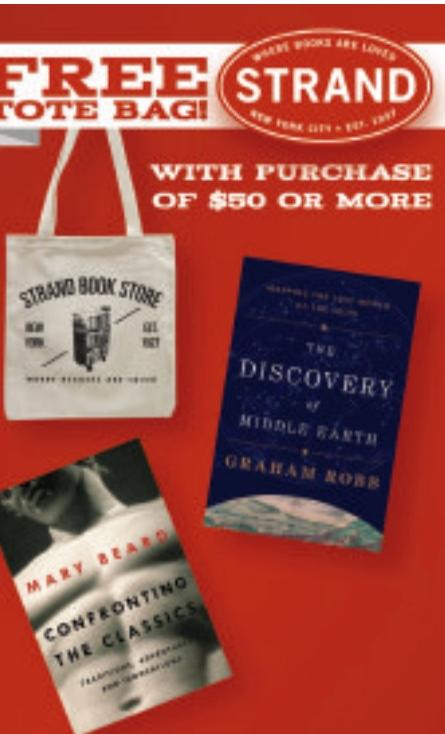
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Christian Bale, Amy Adams and Bradley Cooper strut through "American Hustle." / FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

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Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.



Must see

'The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug'

1 Peter Jackson's hubristically supersized version of J.R.R. Tolkien's first, slender trip to Middle Earth enters its second three-hour installment, with Martin Freeman's hairy-footed adventurer fighting spiders, orcs and a great big dragon (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch).



"The Hobbit"'s Legolas (Orlando Bloom) prepares to ... wait! Legolas isn't in "The Hobbit" book! / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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3 'American Hustle'
The once "difficult" David O. Russell is on his third awards-gobbling romp in a row, with an absurdly powerful cast — a fat, toupeed Christian Bale and a dolled-up Jennifer Lawrence for starters — filling out this telling of the larger-than-life Abscam FBI operation of the '70s.

4 'Saving Mr. Banks'
"Mary Poppins" author P.L. Travers hated

hated the delightful massacre Walt Disney made of her novels. This movie pretends that maybe she didn't. Emma Thompson plays the belligerent Travers as she clashes with Tom Hanks' rendition of Uncle Walt.

5 'Hours'
Paul Walker had only started promoting this dra-

ma when he died suddenly in a car accident. The actor plays a father trying to keep his newborn alive in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

6 'Some Velvet Morning'
Professional malcontent Neil LaBute returns with this two-hander, with Stanley Tucci as a lawyer

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8 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'

Right before his death, the South African freedom fighter finally got his splashy, life-spanning Great Man biopic. Idris Elba does a very good Nelson Mandela impersonation, even after he's buried under credibility-subtracting old age makeup.

9 'Inside Llewyn Davis'

The Coen brothers hit up the Greenwich Village folk scene of the 1960s, relentlessly torturing a musician (Oscar Isaac) as uncompromising as he is unpleasant. Carey Mulligan and Justin Timberlake are among the unfortunates who know him.

10 'Frozen'

The Hans Christian Andersen favorite "The Snow Queen" gets Disneyfied in its latest cartoon extravaganza, which also makes room for a talking snowman (Josh Gad).

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

who pays a surprise, chatty visit to his former mistress (Alice Eve).

7 'Liv and Ingmar'
The unusual relation-

ship between filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and actress Liv Ullmann (a respected filmmaker in her own right) gets examined in this documentary.

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Steven Van Zandt is not a very nice guy

TV. Well, actually he is. But the actor/musician is perpetually playing tough guys.

Most people probably know Steven Van Zandt best as either Tony Soprano's main man, Silvio, or Bruce Springsteen's main man. These days, however, the E Street Band guitarist has a whole new gig, playing a New York mafioso hiding out in Norway on Netflix's "Lilyhammer." Van Zandt produces, writes and stars in the show, which was Netflix's first original series, paving the way for the likes of "House of Cards" and "Orange Is the New Black." For somebody who so frequently plays a mean guy, Van Zandt is quick with a laugh.

How do you think platforms like Netflix are changing television?

I think now we have a new developing world where not only are they letting artists do their thing in an uncompromising way, but for the first time in history we're now seeing TV elevated to the hierarchy of entertainment, above film, and I never thought I'd see that in my lifetime.



Mob mentality

How did you end up playing a mobster again? Is it a writing-what-you-know thing?

[Laughs] I had no intention of doing that. But it happens to be something I know a lot about, so it saved me a whole lot of research! That's how life is, right? You plan and you plan and you plan, and then life just happens to you anyway.

I feel lucky that my life doesn't overlap more than it does actually. And I was really happy that Tommy was there for Bruce. I did feel a little guilt for abandoning my friend, in that sense. But I was very happy that Tom was there to make up for that, on-stage. I mean, Bruce works hard enough as it is.

What do you enjoy more, acting or music?

I like doing different things, you know? I like to do at least one great thing in every medium.

That's ambitious.

Yeah, well, I mean, Broadway was a new medium for me this past year. And last year I did the score for "Lilyhammer," which was a new thing. And then I just did a big commercial last week, which I've never really done. And I've started writing a book about a hundred times, so I probably need to do that at some point. And I still haven't created a TV show from scratch, which I'd really like to do.

So you're not the nicest guy, but you might be the busiest guy.

[Laughs] That's right. It takes a nasty, tough guy to get things done.



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EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Director Peter Jackson has one more "Hobbit" movie to go. / GETTY IMAGES

Interview. Peter Jackson had to soldier through his "Hobbit" trilogy after reading some nonplussed reviews.

While the first "Hobbit" film turned in huge business at the box office, Peter Jackson faced some harsh criticism from fans and reviewers with his return to Middle Earth. And as much as he would have liked to course-correct, there wasn't much wiggle room going into the second installment.

"There wasn't really any ability to respond too much because we had already shot everything pretty much, apart from the 10 weeks of pickups we did this year, half of which was the third movie," he says. "By the time we were done with pickups I was just getting into my groove."

Some things have changed this year though. There's less chest-pumping about high frame rates —

in fact, Jackson and company apparently aren't eager to bring up 48 frames per second this time around, though it will be offered at select screenings. And the story is bigger, with more interweaving plot threads to give audiences a break periodically from Bilbo and the dwarfs.

"The good thing with the middle film is that you don't have to set things up; you can just drop into the story assuming that no one is going to see this film that didn't see the first one," he says. "Unfortunately, [despite] the romance of the big screen, the 3-D and ev-

erything else, the ultimate life of these movies is going to be one on Blu-rays, download and hopefully for years to come. That is where they are going to find their ultimate resting place. So you are telling a continuous story. It's three movies, but it is telling one narrative arc, and you are trying to make each film work individually. This is the part in the middle where you pick up your foot and put it on the gas pedal."

 NED EHRBAR
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Stuck in the middle

A 12-month cliffhanger

With the latest installment, "The Desolation of Smaug," Jackson is well aware some viewers might find its cliffhanger ending a bit unsatisfying, with a full year to wait for the conclusion. "We did have a discussion about it. It

was just a chance that was very rare where you do ... three films back-to-back, to be able to end on a cliffhanger," he says. "When I was 17, 19 years old, I remember the big 'Empire Strikes Back' cliffhanger. It was, like, three years before the next one came out. We're being pretty generous with one year."

Quoted

"It's three movies, but it is telling one narrative arc, and you are trying to make each film work individually. This is the part in the middle where you pick up your foot and put it on the gas pedal."

Jackson on making "The Hobbit" into three films

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Elizabeth Streb: May the 'Forces' be with you

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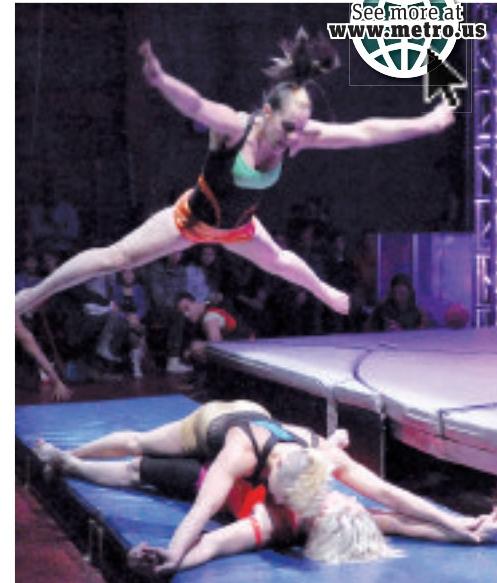
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Elizabeth Streb has spent more than 20 years investigating the capacity of the human body by pushing it to the extreme. Her newest work, "Forces," takes physicality to another level — 35 meters high, in fact. Her team of powerhouse performers, whom she calls Action Engineers, hurl themselves from a rising platform that spans the width of the Streb Laboratory for Action Mechanics, an industrial garage in Williamsburg that's been transformed into a center for acrobatics, aerials and questioning physics.

Walking into the loud, renovated warehouse, it is clear that Streb has cultivated a hub for experimentation and education. Performers and audience members co-mingle, waiting for the main event to begin. Then you're ushered into the bleacher-style arena by a live DJ,



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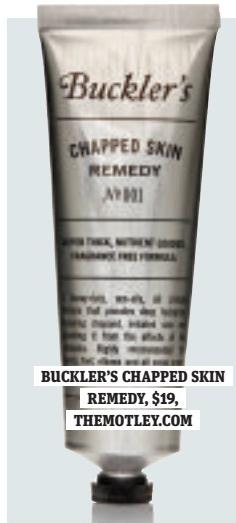
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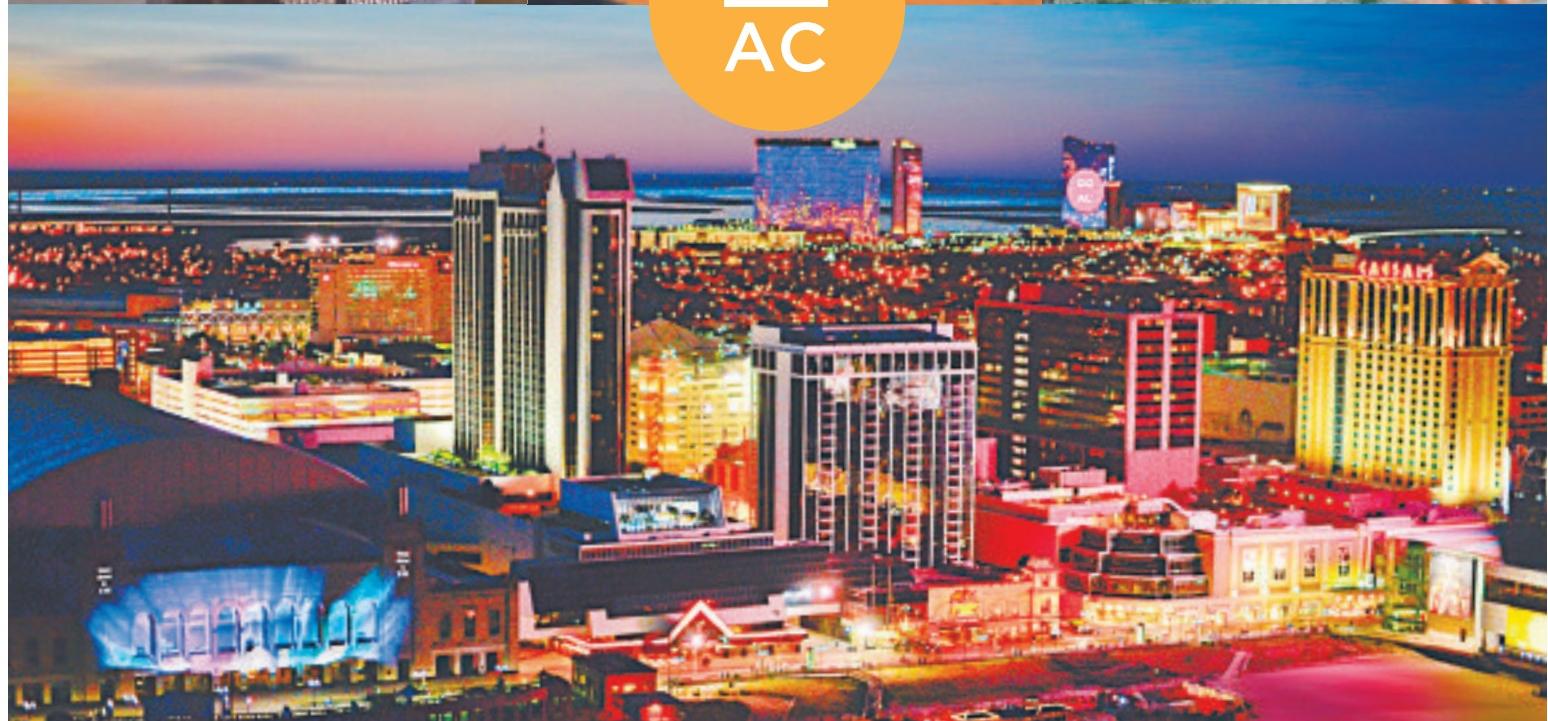
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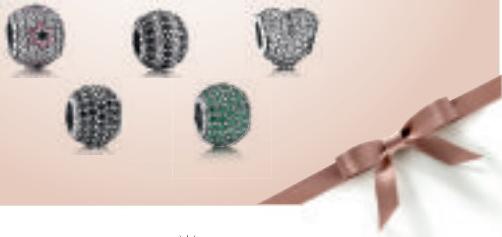
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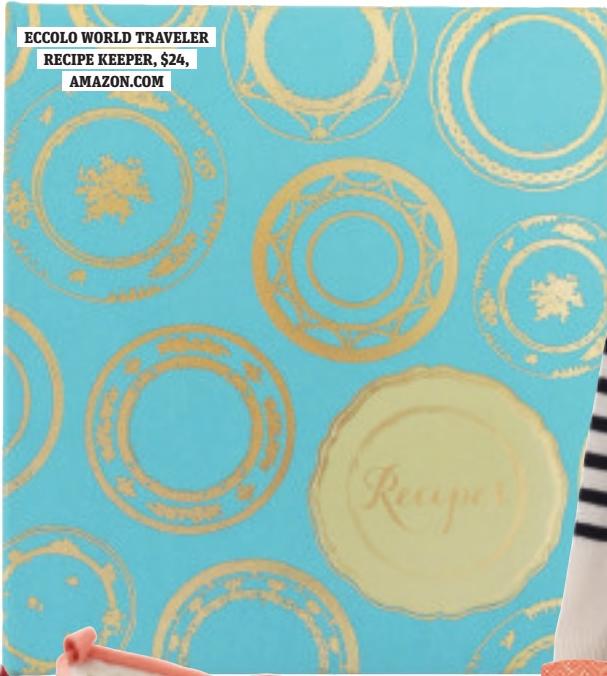
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Say what you want about Patti Stanger, aka Bravo's "Millionaire Matchmaker," but the career dating expert knows a thing or two about the language of love — or, at least, the language of prepping two strangers for an awkward date and hoping they've followed her advice.

Now in its seventh season, "The Millionaire Matchmaker" features wealthy but hapless men (and sometimes ladies, too) who turn to Stanger's dating club in an effort to find that elusive person — The One. And if that unicorn isn't out there, they at least hope to find someone who can stand their company (and stand to spend their money) long enough to let them in their pants.

We checked in with the matchmaker in advance of the show's new season to get some advice for the perennially single among us in the real world.

Give us some advice for those going on a first date.

I think the first thing is making it fun and flirty. Even if you don't end up with that person, you definitely plan a great date. And if a date isn't good, then think about fixing that person up with someone you know. If you do that, they'll owe you, and will usually set you up with someone they know. It's all part of keeping the train moving out of the station. Six degrees of separation is almost 90 percent of how people meet. And the other thing is getting proactive. Getting online — it's not for the dateless and the desperate!

Speaking to that, how do you think the dating landscape has changed with online dating?

We have more opportunity to meet people we've never met before, internationally, not just in the United States. And it's big. But we're disposable at the same time. So, even

See more at
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"The Millionaire Matchmaker" airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Bravo. / BRAVO

On chemistry

I think there is something to be said for instant attraction. People say, "Oh, give the guy a chance, he'll grow on you." I don't buy it, personally.

There are two types of "growing on." There's the "I'm a friend and you're a friend and I've always wondered what it was like." And if the kiss is good, then it can actually work. Then there's also when the chemistry is off-the-chain, like with my boyfriend. When I smell him I go catnip crazy, and yet, if he didn't have the goods, I wouldn't have ended up with him,

because I am all sexual. If I don't get enough sex I get crabby. I would rather be with my vibrator. But yes, it can grow. I had friend who went to college with this guy and they lost touch when they graduated and they had this connection but they were always dating other people. Now they're dating for the first time and they're in their 50s! You never know what's going to happen around the corner, you never know what's going to resurface.



PATTI STANGER IS
"ALL SEXUAL."
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though we're getting more avenues and more people, we're discarding quicker and we're not giving people a chance, because maybe their shoes are wrong or maybe they don't have enough hair on their head.

So, you wouldn't suggest Googling a future date?

For a woman, it's proactive to Google a man. Like, to see that there aren't 20 girls on the Internet saying that he stuck them with the bill or that he stranded them in a restaurant. But if you're doing it a) to find out their net worth or b) see what their story is, then you're going to snooze, you lose.

You have a no sex before

Bonus question

Cheesiest pick-up line you've ever gotten?

"When God made you, he broke the mold."

you're committed, monogamy-wise. Otherwise, it's going to fall into the wrong hands.

What's the nicest way to blow a guy off?

My favorite way is to just say, "I just don't feel chemistry — so you're not going to get laid. I know someone for you, and I will send him or her your way." You can even text him, email it, over the phone — don't go overboard.

You're on a first date and the guy is a raging d—bag. Is it OK to sneak out?

The best advice I have is to always have at least 100 bucks cash stashed in your purse. If you have to call a taxi service, you have to have emergency money.

 ALEXANDRA CAVALLO alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

monogamy rule.

If you want to get married! And have a serious relationship.

But isn't there the danger that you'll establish this monogamy, sans sex, and then find out the other person sucks in bed?

Well, then you get to move right to someone else.

Where do oral sex and handjobs fit into the rule?

Oral sex is fine — for the guy to give you. You can't give it to him. I'll give you that one, it's a one-sided deal, baby. No handjobs either. His penis is off limits. He wants to give it to you, fine, but his penis is off limits.

What's your rule about paying on a first date — should women do it?

No! Women should never offer unless they are in a monogamous, committed relationship. Let him lead financially. This is not being cheap. You can do other things; you can cook for him, you can take his shirts to the cleaner, make the reservations for a hotel for a vacation. But the minute you start to put the money down, he who spends the most becomes the "man." It's a tough ride for a woman who makes more. He takes it and then he bites the hand that feeds him. Because he's resentful of it.

Uh, but don't you think that's a bad double standard?

It's a double standard that is never going to change, because men don't see it that way. It's all in the



male brain. If the men were equal opportunity and everything was 50/50, the world would be a better place, but they don't see it that way.

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Oceana
120 W. 49th St.,
212-759-5941,
\$95 p.p.

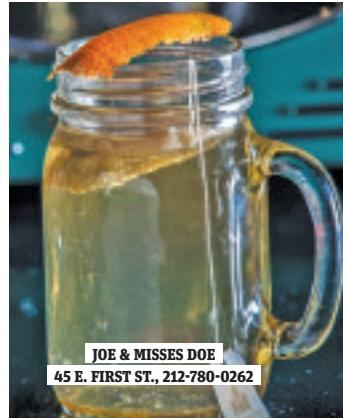
Abboccato
136 W. 55th St.,
212-265-4000,
\$75 p.p.

Patsy's
236 W. 56th St.,
212-247-3491,
\$70 p.p.

Sirio
795 Fifth Ave.,
212-940-8195,
\$95 p.p.

Lincoln
142 W. 65th St.,
212-359-6500,
\$85 p.p.

Roman's
243 Dekalb Ave.,
718-622-5300, \$65



JOE & MISSES DOE
45 E. FIRST ST., 212-780-0262

Ginger Toddy (\$16)

Ingredients

2 oz. Powers Irish Whiskey
4 oz. Pinot Grigio
1 cup raisins
1 cup light brown sugar
½ cup sliced ginger
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Instructions

Combine all ingredients into a pot over medium heat. When ingredients have dissolved, strain and place back onto heat. Add a sliced orange and keep warm. Pour into coffee mug. Garnish with a slice of lemon.



HUDSON LODGE
356 W. 58TH ST., 212-554-6217

The Hot Queen (of England) (\$10)

Ingredients

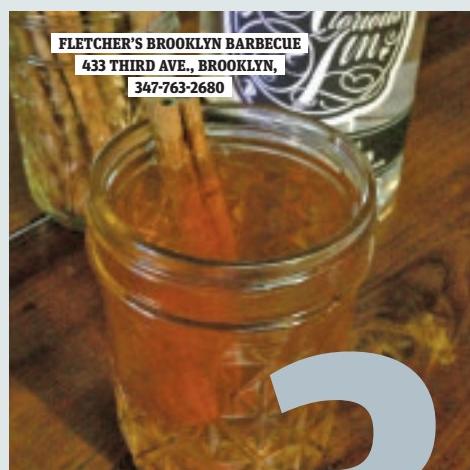
1 bag chamomile tea
1 tsp honey
Dash orange bitters
1 oz. apple brandy
1 oz simple syrup

Instructions

Fill mug ¾ with cool chamomile tea. Add all other ingredients, except honey and brandy. Microwave for two minutes. Add honey and brandy. Garnish with an orange peel.



JOE & MISSES DOE
45 E. FIRST ST., 212-780-0262



Pearman's Toddy (\$9)

Instructions

In a small pot, add water and cinnamon and bring to boil. Simmer for 10 minutes and strain out cinnamon sticks. Bring water back to a boil, add sugar and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Toddy preparation

Build the gin, syrup, lemon juice and hot water into 8 oz. mason jar. Stir well. Add a dash of Angostura bitters. Garnish with a cinnamon stick.

Cinnamon simple syrup

Ingredients
2 cups water
4 cinnamon sticks
1½ cups sugar

Some like it hot

These seasonal sips are sure to help you settle in for a long winter's nap. MEREDITH ENGEL



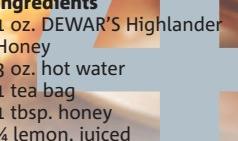
DEWAR'S Highlander Honey Hot Toddy (\$9)

Ingredients

1 oz. DEWAR'S Highlander Honey
3 oz. hot water
1 tea bag
1 tbsp. honey
¼ lemon, juiced

Instructions

Heat water and add the tea bag to make hot tea. Separately, coat the bottom of a mug with honey and add DEWAR's Highlander Honey and lemon juice. Pour the hot tea into the glass, stir and enjoy!



Spruce Hot Toddy (\$12)

Spruce syrup

Ingredients
200 g. fresh spruce
1 liter ice water
1 kg. fine sugar

Instructions

Blend everything together until the spruce is all fine. Let soak for 10 minutes, then fine strain. The spruce syrup will last for about a week.

Cocktail

Ingredients

1.5 oz. Mezcal Vida
.75 oz. spruce syrup
.5 oz. fresh squeezed lemon juice

Instructions

Add in a mug or glass, top with boiling water, garnish with lemon wheel and/or spruce twig.



ASKA
90 WYTHE AVE., BROOKLYN,
718-388-2969

Shop till you pop

We've got the details on the NYC pop-up shops you won't want to miss this season. **ANISA ARSENault**

Union Square Holiday Market

The red-and-white tents are back at Union Square. The holiday market, complete with new holiday lights, aims to create the ultimate Christmas-in-the-city atmosphere. More than 150 unique small businesses sell jewelry, toys and more alongside classic NYC food vendors such as Waffles & Dinges. The Little Brooklyn section once again sells



strictly handmade, local goods.

When: Through Dec. 24. Weekdays: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.;

Sundays: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Where: Union Square Park (bounded by Park Ave. S, 14th St. and Broadway)



Zady at LaGuardia

Last-minute shoppers will be happy to hear of a pop-up shop they can visit en route this holiday season: Online brand Zady is setting up a pop-up shop right in terminal D of LaGuardia airport. With a mission to help consumers understand the quality and origins of an item, Zady curates well-made luxury brands of jewelry, accessories,

apparel and houseware. Zady is also committed to giving this holiday season: Five percent of each purchase will go toward the Bootstrap Project, which promotes the retention of century-old crafts and customs worldwide.

When: Daily through Jan. 4

Where: LaGuardia airport, Terminal D

Winter Village at Bryant Park

Once again, there's much more than shopping at Bryant Park this winter. While the ice rink and Celsius restaurant will be open through March 2, the pop up shops close on Jan. 5, so get there fast. More than 125 boutique-style shops fill the park, featuring apparel, jewelry, foods and decorations. What we're most excited about: Jacques Torres Chocolate and their adorable chocolate snowmen.

When: Through Jan. 5; Weekdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Where: Bryant Park (42nd Street and Sixth Avenue)



One more

The next Chelsea Market?

Don't worry; we found the pop-up fair exclusively dedicated to food. Jamestown Properties, owner of Chelsea Market,

has opened The Food Box within the Falchi Building (31-00 47th Ave., Long Island City). This 2,000-square-foot artisanal food fair has something for every palate. Check out vendors like

ReCaFo (Real Caribbean Food), Jessy's Pastries, Vendy winner Khao Man Gai NY and The Kolache Co. There's not much info on this newbie yet, but we're hoping they launch a website soon!

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Cocktail

Cocktail of the Week: The Rockette

Golden Cadillac (13 First Ave., 646-924-8153) is a newcomer to the NYC restaurant scene, but it's got an old-timey feel that we can't get enough of. The space, designed as a 1970s cocktail den, celebrates the holidays with its Rockette cocktail (\$13). The recipe comes from a 1961 "Diner's Club Drink Book" that was a hit in the '70s. Still, the recipe — vodka, lime juice, simple syrup and mint — is timeless.

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Restaurant notes

Openings

Park Kitchen

**870 Seventh Ave.,
212-707-5500**

Located inside the Park Central Hotel, this modern American restaurant boasts a chef from Eleven Madison Park.

Bleecker Kitchen & Co.

**643 Broadway,
212-253-7467**

Seasonally inspired breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch dishes will be served in industrial digs.

Thelma on Clinton

**29A Clinton St.,
212-979-8471**

Chef Melissa O'Donnell designed the space herself to mimic walking into her own home. Nightly specials like whole wheat pasta with duck confit, walnuts and sage are served on a rotating menu.

The Park 112

2080 Frederick Douglass Blvd., 646-524-6610

Harlem's newest hot spot has a globally influenced menu and one of the country's only self-service wine machines.



Yes, that's a wine machine at the Park 112. / PROVIDED

Dogmatic Dogs

**120 MacDougal St.,
212-414-0600**

Healthy hot dogs? These puppies are made from grass-fed, pasture-raised meats free of hormones and antibiotics.

Tablao

**361 Greenwich St.,
212-334-4043**

Tribeca welcomes a new tapas bar; there will be live Flamenco shows twice a week.

BarBacon

**836 Ninth Ave.,
646-362-0622**

Artisanal bacon paired with artisanal beer — what's not to love?

North River

**166 First Ave.,
212-228-1200**

Homestyle cooking and

Victorian design are the hallmarks of this new East Village eatery.

Bavaria Bierhaus

**19 S. William St.,
212-480-8142**

A new bi-level German beer hall and restaurant (with furniture imported from the motherland!) hits the Financial District.

Wine Spot

**127 MacDougal St.,
212-505-1248**

The former Tea Spot now is serving wine and tapas.

Fung Tu

**22 Orchard St.,
212-219-8785**

Expect imaginative Chinese food from Per Se alum Jonathan Wu.

MEREDITH ENGEL



What we're into

Celebrate Christmas like Dickens would

Ever wish you could escape modern NYC for the Victorian streets of England that Charles Dickens so vividly painted in "A Christmas Carol"? Now you can, sort of. Amali (115 E. 60th St., 212-339-8363) is offering its Dickens Dinner for the second year in a row, featuring dishes carefully curated to reflect meals featured in the novella. You'll feast on oysters, gnocchi with chestnuts and Poule au Rôti in Quasi Mourning — a black truffle-stuffed chicken breast (above) — in the restaurant's new tasting room, Sopra. Mom and pop Cratchits pay \$85; Tiny Tim's are \$40. MEREDITH ENGEL

HOLIDAY

Holiday Party Featuring Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana II: Navidad Flamenca

Friday, 6-8 p.m.
The Bronx Museum,
1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx
Free, 718-681-6000
www.bronxmuseum.org
Sometimes there's only so
much Nutcracker and Rudolph
you can handle, and by about
mid-December you've probably
had your fill. But you still have
that holiday spirit and need
something new to help you cel-
ebrate, like Navidad Flamenca!
Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana
II brings on the party with sing-
ing, dancing and caroling,
flamenco style. Put a little Feliz
Navidad in that eggnog.

IKEA's Swedish Christmas Julbord Celebration

Friday, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
IKEA Brooklyn,
1 Beard St., Red Hook
\$12.99 (\$4.99 children),
888-888-4532, www.ikea.com
IKEA celebrates its Swedish
heritage with a Christmas
Julbord celebration. It's an
all-you-can-eat affair featuring
the many foods of IKEA (gotta
love those meatballs). Start with
the salmon, move on to the
Christmas ham and end with
some dessert and a glass of
mulled wine.

Phil Kline's Unsilent Night 2013

Saturday, 7 p.m.; meet in Wash-
ington Square Park at 6:45
Washington Square Park



Waters spreads his version
of holiday cheer. / GETTY IMAGES

METRO'S ULTIMATE GOING OUT GUIDE

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MUSIC



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WWW.METRO.US/NEWYORK/EVENTS

Queens of the Stone Age bring their big sound to the big stage at the Barclays Center. / GETTY IMAGES

Queens of the Stone Age

Saturday, 8 p.m.

Barclays Center, 620 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn; \$37.70-\$71.35, 917-618-6700; www.barclayscenter.com
Queens of the Stone Age weren't kidding when they announced they were heading out on an extensive world tour in support of their sixth album "...Like Clockwork." Already ranking high on many "best albums of 2013" lists, QOTSA bring their latest to Brooklyn's Barclays Center before heading down to Florida, Australia, Italy and beyond!

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know about? Send an email
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get it on our new listings
website.

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Park with your old-school boom-
box loaded with one of the four
tracks you've downloaded from
the Unsilent Night website, and
get ready to make music. When
everyone hits play, the tracks
will come together to create a
song using the NYC streets as
your soundboard.

The Amazing Brooklyn



Watch out — he bites. / GETTY IMAGES

LECTURE

Mike Tyson book signing

Friday, 6 p.m.;

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, 1368 Fulton Street,
Bed-Stuy; Free, 718-246-0200; www.restorationplaza.org

Put on your earmuffs, helmet or whatever it is you use to protect
your lobes from a gnarly bite, 'cause Mike Tyson's coming back
to Bed-Stuy. Hosted by Greenlight Bookstore, who will be selling
discounted copies of Tyson's book, Iron Mike is signing copies of
his autobiography "Undisputed Truth." Don't make him mad, he's
likely to go off!

HOLIDAY

A John Waters Christmas

Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.

Doors open 6 p.m.; Stage 48, 605 W. 48th St.; \$45-\$99, 212-957-1800; www.stage48.com

John Waters, director of cult flicks "Pink Flamingos," "Polyester" and "Hairspray," puts the X back in X-mas when he comes to Stage 48 for a night that, much like his movies, is surely not for the faint of heart. Of course John Waters loves giving and sharing, but his ideas may be a little off the beaten path — for example his ideas about Santa from his very own song "Here Comes Fatty Clause," about the sack of s— he carries around, may not be what you're used to hearing.

FOOD + DRINK

Speed Rack New York

Dec. 15, 4 p.m.; Music Hall of Williamsburg, 66 N. Sixth St., Wil-
liamsburg; \$25, 718-486-5400; www.speed-rack.com

Twenty lady mixologists grab their shakers and wine keys for a speed bartending competition that not only rewards their talents and hard work, but also raises money for breast cancer charities. Judges include Julie Reiner (owner of Flatiron Lounge and Clover Club), Dave Wondrich (cocktail historian and writer), Jim Meehan (co-owner of PDT) and Aisha Sharpe (top cocktail consultant). The booze will be flowing, and surely the judges can't drink it all ...



Entrants will participate in a different kind of race for the cure.
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clues, challenges and obstacles.
Go ahead, be a regular Sherlock
Holmes, why don't you!

MUSIC

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Participation will be your road to victory. Voice your opinion and roll up your sleeves, and you will be rewarded.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Stay focused on what needs to be done. Your competitive nature will lead you in the right direction. Don't be thrown off your game just because someone makes a move.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You are heading upward. Investments will bring big returns. Don't let anyone stifle your intentions.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Shopping will ease your stress and help you reflect. Take care of financial matters that need to be dealt with before the year's end.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Pick up skills, knowledge and information that can help you get ahead. Don't let a change at home cost you too much. Stick to a set budget.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Don't hesitate to bring up issues that have been bothering you. Spend quality time with the people you enjoy the most.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Ask questions. Someone is likely to withhold important information. A last-minute change will help you get back on course.

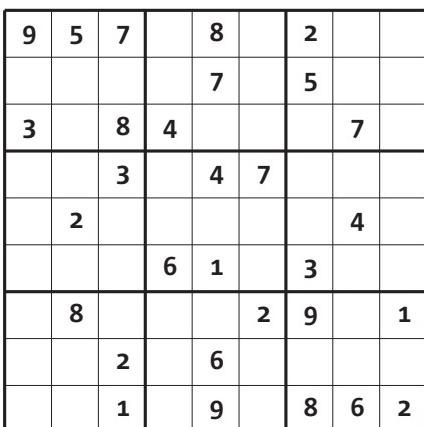
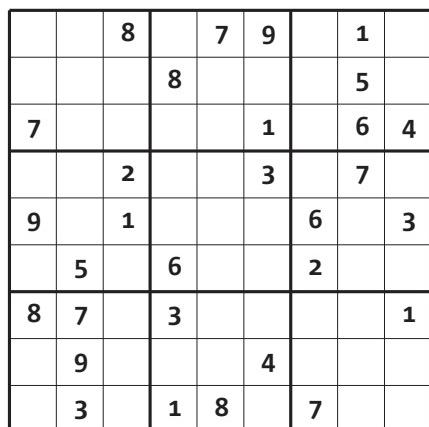
♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. A little give and take will be called for. Keep it simple, and offer as much in return as you receive. Strive for equality in all that you do.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't be afraid to initiate change. A change of environment will do you good. Gravitate toward people who are unfamiliar and have something to offer.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Get out and strut your stuff. You'll attract attention. Personal improvements will turn out well, and romance is on the rise.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Keep life simple. Focus on emotional situations that need to be dealt with before you make a life-changing move.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Explore your options today. Personal encounters will lead to shared ideas and the possibility of a partnership. Love is highlighted. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

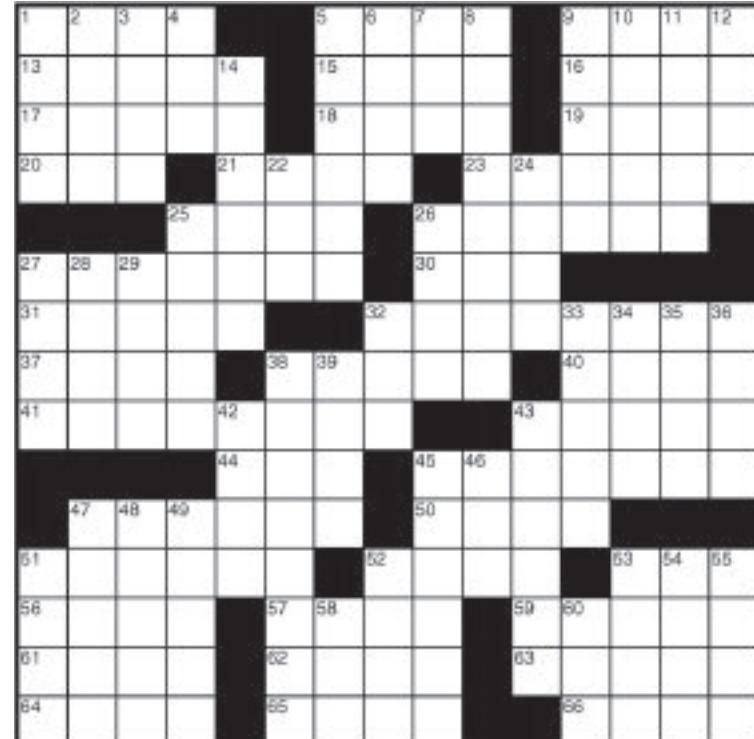
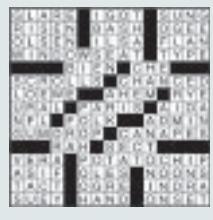
Sudoku: Easy and hard**Crossword****Across**

- 1 Headquarters
- 5 Onetime Lakers star
- 9 Went for the gold
- 13 Very
- 15 Soy product
- 16 Gluck of opera
- 17 Find out
- 18 From memory
- 19 Decreases slightly
- 20 Frat-party fixture
- 21 Without the ice
- 23 Slinky dress
- 25 Square-dance site
- 26 Durable
- 27 Ruffled
- 30 Diamond —
- 31 Istanbul moolah
- 32 Flew (2 wds.)
- 37 Desktop symbol
- 38 New on the job
- 40 Great Lakes port
- 41 Quits running (2 wds.)
- 43 Actor Kevin —
- 44 Pacino and Hirt
- 45 Garlic juicers
- 47 Coffee holder
- 50 Slat
- 51 Commuter's home
- 52 Bulk
- 53 Masseuse employer
- 56 "By Jove!"
- 57 Orient

- 59 Maximum
- 61 Better half
- 62 Guys' dates
- 63 Spout, as Vesuvius
- 64 Centurion's highway
- 65 — amandine
- 66 Nefertiti's god

Down

- 1 Larger part
- 2 Helm position
- 3 Antler bearer
- 4 Make a typo
- 5 One hair
- 6 Catcall
- 7 Rear, to Popeye
- 8 Wonder
- 9 Skywalker's father
- 10 Old war story
- 11 Hollow
- 12 Cook's smidgen
- 14 Historical records
- 22 Previous to
- 24 Rusted-out ship
- 25 Expressionless
- 26 Gin-fizz flavor
- 27 Cannes cop
- 28 Puerto —
- 29 Fe, commonly
- 32 Ninth Hebrew letter (var.)
- 33 Celtic language
- 34 Orchid-like blossom

Yesterday's answer**Letters****Obama can do nothing right**

Think about shelter dogs before you get a pet

Now a handshake and a cell phone picture are treasonous?

If President Obama had the Secret Service drive him to a pharmacy to pick up the last ingredient for a cure for the common cold, Fox News, Ted Cruz and the Tea Party would accuse the president of using the Affordable Care Act to waste taxpayer money (driving up the debt) on Kenyan black magic therapy with the intention of taking away the rights of God-fearing real Americans who enjoy runny noses and phlegm-filled coughs!

LARRY D FOWLER, VIA EMAIL

The one thing worse than neglecting animals is supporting their abuse — which is what many people do when purchasing their pets from pet stores. Pet store puppies often come from puppy mills — commercial dog-breeding facilities where puppies don't get adequate veterinary care. There are so many loving dogs at shelters that need to be adopted. **JORDAN RUBENSTEIN, VIA EMAIL**

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!



Lankster ready to fill in for Cromartie

NFL. The corner could step in for Cromartie who is dealing with a concussion he suffered last week.

A head injury to Antonio Cromartie could open up the door for cornerback Ellis Lankster to make his first NFL start — short of a one-snap package-specific start in 2012 — this Sunday against the Panthers. And, it won't be an easy task.

If Lankster gets the nod from the coaching staff, he will likely have the challenge of going up against Panthers wide receiver Steve Smith. The 34-year-old Smith, a five-time Pro Bowler, is putting up some big numbers for the Panthers as he leads the team with 60 receptions for 681 receiving yards.

Primarily a role player, Lankster sounded a bit brazen in his readiness for this Sunday.

"Steve Smith? It will be great, I'm ready," Lankster told Metro. "They're finally giving me a chance if 'Cro' can't go. I'm ready."

"I already know how



Ellis Lankster, right, and rookie Dee Milliner are likely going to have to step up on Sunday against the Panthers' wide receivers corps. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Might as well put boxing gloves on those kids. We'd pay to watch that one. ... Steve Smith and him are very similar that way — very competitive guys."

Rex Ryan, Jets head coach
On Lankster matching up with the physical Steve Smith

Steve Smith is and I've got attitude about me too. [He is] a good route runner, quick hands, aggressive ... He's legit."

In his fourth year in the league, Lankster has been a special teams player and played reserve roles on defense, but never as a consistent contributor. Sunday would be his chance to prove that he deserves a larger role.

On Wednesday, head coach Rex Ryan said ei-

ther Lankster or Darrin Walls would step in opposite Dee Milliner if the head injury prevented Cromartie from starting. Lankster ran exclusively with the first team in Wednesday's practice.

Lankster played 24 snaps, all on special teams, in the win over the Raiders last Sunday.

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

Dubi returns

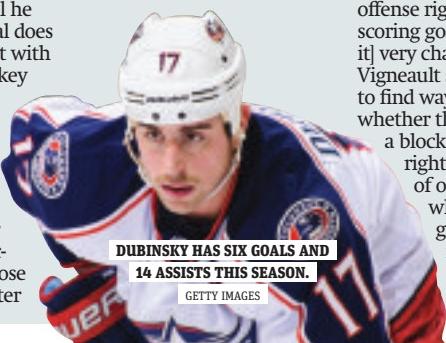
Rangers struggling on offense

Head coach Alain Vigneault stood at the podium following yet another dispiriting loss and acknowledged the obvious.

The personnel he has at his disposal does not necessarily fit with the brand of hockey he is trying to implement. But despite all evidence to the contrary, the onus is not on general manager Glen Sather to acquire players whose talents mesh better

with his system.

"No. My job as a coach is to analyze the personnel that I have and put a system in place that best suits them," Vigneault said after the Rangers' loss to Nashville Tuesday night. "That's my responsibility. That's what I'm trying to do right now."



DUBINSKY HAS SIX GOALS AND 14 ASSISTS THIS SEASON.

GETTY IMAGES

No spoilers



VICTOR CRUZ
GETTY IMAGES

Giants change focus with playoffs gone

Giants wideout Victor Cruz has been steadfastly against calling his squad "spoilers," noting the negative connotation it has.

But with the realization that the Giants are eliminated from playoff contention, and the next two weeks will feature teams prominently in the postseason race (the Seahawks and Lions), Cruz may have to rethink that label — begrudgingly.

"I still wouldn't say spoilers. Nobody's excited or happy to be in this position," Cruz said. "[But] everybody's going to have a little edge about them, naturally."

That edge might be needed to match the intensity of Seattle.

"If you're not ready to play, they will embarrass you and laugh about it," said Justin Tuck. "But I'm not in the business of being embarrassed."

TONY WILLIAMS

3

SPORTS



RG3 sits

Griffin III out for Cousins

The Redskins are out of the playoff race and now their top star is out of the starting quarterback role. Head coach Mike Shanahan said Wednesday he will start Kirk Cousins for the rest of the season to prevent injury to Robert Griffin III.

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Pitcher relief

Report: Mets sign Colon

Mets fans were not going to be happy if Curtis Granderson was their only addition this offseason. We'll have to wait and see how they feel about a 40-year-old pitcher with a steroid past.

CBS Sports reported Wednesday night the

team agreed to terms with former Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon for two years and \$20 million.

The Mets are down a key starter with Matt Harvey having Tommy John surgery.

Colon was suspended 50 games in August 2012 for failing a test for elevated levels of testosterone. METRO

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Jordan Todman is an excellent play with Jones-Drew on the shelf. / GETTY IMAGES

NFL news

Robert Griffin III's benching is worse for Alfred Morris than Pierre Garcon and the passing game. Sunday starter Kirk Cousins is a good bet to resuscitate Garcon's value.

is to simply insert Toby Gerhart into lineups, but that's complicated by his hamstring injury. The better move is to add Jordan Todman, the speedy backup to Maurice Jones-Drew (doubtful, hamstring). Todman will be facing the Bills at home.

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Injuries to star players are brutal at any point of the season. But to sustain them in Week 14, after four long months of hard work, when all the money is on the line? That's a swift shot to the family jewels.

Never fear, however. Injury leads to opportunity, and there is plenty of it available cheaply as we try to replace Rob Gronkowski, Adrian Peterson, Maurice Jones-Drew, Wes Welker and others.

Gronked out

The Gronk Spike and the Jimmy Graham jumpshot were two of the biggest difference-making sights in fantasy football. At a thin position, they soared above the rest. However, a healthy Dennis Pitta would have been right

there with them if not for his preseason hip injury. Pitta is the intermediate option Joe Flacco desperately needs, and he also excels in the red zone. Now healthy, he's a legit threat for five to seven catches and a score the rest of the way.

All Day misery

You had the No. 1 overall pick and took Peterson. Congratulations. Now it's time to dig in and do some work. The logical move

Concussion machine

Wes Welker has now sustained two concussions in a month, putting him out for Week 15 and very questionable for Week 16. Ideally, owners have built up enough at wideout to sustain this. Guys like Roddy White, Julian Edelman and Michael Crabtree have come back from the dead to give the position depth. But if you need upside plays, look to rookies Da'Rick Rogers and Cordarrelle Patterson.



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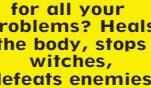


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